(iii) D.O. Letter from the Heads of Circles are addressed to Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments and heads of Departments.

(iv) Telephones are disconnected excepting the exempted category phones.

An amount of Rs. 25 crores from the Central Government and Rs. 55 crores from State Governments recovered from April, 2004 to September, 2004 in respect of bills issued upto March, 2004, leaving latest balance as shown in para (a) above.

(c) While MTNL has not received any such requests, in case of BSNL State Governments of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Orisa, U.P. and West Bengal have requested not to disconnect telephones belonging to State and Cabinet Ministers, Senior Officers up to the Secretary level, officers dealing with Law and Order and Judiciary. A view is taken on such requests by BSNL from time to time.

Medium of examination for DSPs/Asstt. Commandants

*237. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the selection of DSPs/Assistant Commandant etc. for the para-military forces is being done by the Union Public Service Commission during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the written tests are held only in Hindi and English; and

(c) whether Government would allow all the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution as a medium for these examinations as in the case of the Civil Services Examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir. The examination for the post of Assistant Commandant in various para-military forces was held by Union Public Service Commission for the first time on 12th October, 2003. The second and latest such examination was held by the Commission on 3rd October, 2004.

(b) UPSC conducts the written examination for the post of Assistant Commandant in Central Police Forces according to the rules notified by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the said Examination.

The written examination for the post of Assistant Commandant comprises two papers *i.e.* Paper I and Paper II. The questions in Paper I are of objective type in which the questions are printed both in English and Hindi, in paper II the candidates are allowed the option of writing the Essay Component in Hindi or English but the medium of Precis writing and Comprehension Components of this paper is English only.

(c) At present candfdates appearing only in the Civil Services (Main) Examination are allowed the option of writing their answers in English or any of the Eighth Schedule languages (except in the compulsory language papers). In the matter of extension of this facility to other examinations conducted by UPSC, given the importance and the sensitivity of the matter and, divergent views on the subject. Government's endeavour is and, has been, to evolve a consensus, before formulating a nationally acceptable policy, after holding wider consultation with State Governments and others concerned. Efforts in that direction are continuing.

Employment opportunities for engineers

†*238. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of engineers have increased in the country during the last decade;

(b) if so, the number thereof in 2003 as compared to 1993;

(c) whether it is also fact that employment opportunities for engineers have been depleting in the country at present; and

(d) if so, the number of unemployed engineers out of total number of engineers at present?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.